

# The Gift of Presence

Christmas Eve, December 24, 2014

Season of Giving • Message 5

HELP PEOPLE DISCOVER LIFE IN CHRIST • PRAY

## Review

Everything good I have is a gift from God to make me a giver too.  
God gives me the gift of forgiveness that I might give it to others too.  
God has given me the power of real life that I might give it to others too.  
God has given me the hope of eternity that I might give it to others too.

CHRISTMAS IS A TIME FOR RELATIONSHIP • WHAT MAKES PEOPLE NOT WANT TO BE FRIENDS?

## Relationship-breaking Problems

PREACHERS ALWAYS HAVE TO HAVE THREE POINTS

### When There Is Pain

ILL: MY SISTER'S FRIENDSHIPS.

It's not the pain that breaks relationships,  
it's the **AVOIDANCE** that follows pain.

### When People Are Too Different

ILL: I REALLY TRIED TO BE FRIENDS WITH FRANKIE AND JASON IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD

It's not the differences that break relationship, it's the  
**AVOIDANCE** that comes from no motivation.

### When People Are Far Away

ILL: MY FIRST SUMMER AFTER COLLEGE, ALL MY FRIENDS WERE JUST THE SAME, I WAS DIFFERENT

It's not the physical distance that breaks relationship, it's the  
**AVOIDANCE** produced by that distance.

### The Secret of Relationships

If people are going to have a relationship,  
they need to **ACTIVELY PURSUE** it.

AND THAT'S THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

## Christmas: God Pursues Us

Luke 19:10

IT HAS BEEN THAT WAY SINCE THE GARDEN

Genesis 3:8-10

Genesis 17:7

Exodus 29:44-46

God wants to be **WITH US**.

HE DOESN'T WANT A LONG DISTANCE RELATIONSHIP  
HOWEVER EVEN THE TABERNACLE WAS A LONG DISTANCE CALL

## Christmas: God With Us

John 1:1-5, 9-14

NO MORE TRAVELING TO THE TEMPLE... WAITING FOR THE DAY... THE PERSON...  
JESUS' FLESH IS THE NEW TEMPLE/TABERNACLE

The true gift of Christmas is God's **PRESENCE**.

AND AS COUSIN EDDIE SAYS TO CLARK, THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

John 14:16-17

The Holy Spirit is **GOD STILL WITH** us.

1 Corinthians 12:27

The community of believers is **GOD WITH US**.

## Take it Home

Because of Jesus, every day is Christmas:  
**RECEIVE** the **GIFT**, and **PASS** it **ON**!